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EXAMINER

HAN, QI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2654

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/803,255	MEURS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Qi Han	2654	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-82 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-82 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Response to Amendment

2. This communication is responsive to the applicant's amendment dated 10/31/2005.
Applicant amended claims 1, 4, 25-26, 29-30 and 32-82.

The examiner withdraws the specification objection regarding claims 26, 46, 54 and 81, because the applicant amended the specification and/or claims.

The examiner withdraws the claim objection regarding claims 28, 30, 32, 34-35, 37-39, 45-48, 51, 54-55, 57, 59, 61-62, 64-66, 72-73, 76, 79, 80 and 81-82, because the applicant amended the claims.

The examiner withdraws the claim rejection regarding claims 25 and 80, under 35 USC 112 2nd, because the applicant amended the claims.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed on 10/31/2005 with respect to rejection for claims 1-82 under 35 USC 103 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection, since the amended claims introduce new subject matter and/or new issue. The response to the argument based on the amended claims is directed to detail claim rejection below.

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In response to applicant's arguments that challenges examiner's official notice regarding using wild card input (amendment: page 19, paragraph 5 to page 10 paragraph 4), the examiner provide a reference (ZHANG et al., 5;197,810) as an evidence for supporting the official notice in the previous rejection. It is noted that the claim rejection in this office action will be modified for reflecting the applicant's challenge (see detail in the claim rejection below).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 1-82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Regarding claim 1, the amended limitations of “**any of** a plurality of strokes and a plurality of phonetic characters”, “wherein said user selection of ...is alternatively associated with **any of** said plurality of strokes and said plurality of phonetic characters”, “**any of** a set of phonetic sequences”, “finding **any of** stroke indices...and phonetic indices...”, and “converting **any of** said match stroke indices...,” introduce new subject matter, which are not specifically disclosed in the original specification.

Regarding claims 29 and 56, the rejection is based on the same reason described for claim 1, because the claims recites the same or similar limitations as claim 1.

Regarding claims 2-28, 30-55 and 57-82, the rejection is based on the same reason described for their parent claims, because the dependent claims inherit all limitations as their parent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 1-25, 28-45, 47-53 and 56-80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen (6,073,146) in view of NI et al. (6,822,585 B1) hereinafter referenced as NI.

As per **claim 29**, as best understood in view of rejection under 35 USC 112, 1st (see above), Chen discloses system and method for processing Chinese language text (title), comprising:

“a user input device having a plurality of input means, each of said input means being associated with any of a plurality of strokes and a plurality of phonetic characters, an input sequence being generated each time when an input means is selected by said user into said user input device[[, wherein said user selection of said input means is alternatively associated with any of said plurality of strokes and said plurality of phonetic characters]]” (column 4, lines 28-43, ‘entering phonetic Chinese (Pinyin and BPMF)’, ‘the system has a novel keyboard (input device that has multiple keys that interpreted as a plurality of input means) with diacritic keys’, ‘a process ...determines that a syllable (an input) has been entered (selected) when a diacritic key is struck’; column 1, lines 33-60, ‘Five-Stroke method’ and ‘phonetic input’);

“an input method specific database containing a plurality of input sequences and, associated with each input sequence, any of a set of phonetic sequences whose spellings correspond to the input sequence and a set of stroke sequences corresponding to the input sequence” (column 4, lines 44-61, ‘a dictionary of phonetic words (corresponding to an input method specific database)’; Fig. 3 and column 9, line 55 to column 10, line 49, ‘a data structure 300 for the ASCII coding for Pinyin or mixed input (input sequences)’; Fig. 7 and column 11, line 62 to column 12, line 67, ‘the Chinese syllable list 700 (including phonetic sequences)’; which can also be read on “input method specific database”);

“an ideographic database [[associated with both phonetic input and stroke input]], said ideographic database containing a set of ideographic character sequences, wherein each ideographic character contains an ideographic index, [[a plurality of stroke indices to corresponding stroke sequences]] and a plurality of phonetic indices to corresponding phonetic sequences” (column 4, lines 3-17, ‘converting phonetic Chinese (Pinyin or BPMF) input to character writing (Hanzi) (ideographic character)’, and using ‘square-character (Hanzi) stream in the GB2312-80 form’ (corresponding to Hanzi database or an ideographic database); column 6, lines 20-32, ‘displays the Pinyin characters 1020’ and ‘the Hanzi characters 1025’, which inherently includes indices between the related phonetic sequences and ideographic character; column 1, lines 38-53, ‘Five-stroke methods’ that inherently include indices between the related stroke sequences and ideographic character’);

“means for comparing the input sequence with said input method specific database and finding any of stroke indices corresponding to matching stroke entries and phonetic indices corresponding to matching phonetic entries and said matching stroke entries or phonetic entries”

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(column 4, lines 44-49, 'the word string (input sequence) is compared to a dictionary (input method specific database) of phonetic words'; column 11, lines 21-22, 'matched string is used as a syllable input'; column 1, lines 39-45, 'five-stroke method');

"means for converting any of said matching stroke indices associated with said matching stroke entries; and said matching phonetic indices associated with matching phonetic entries to matching ideographic indices" (column 4, lines 3-17, 'converting phonetic Chinese (Pinyin or BPMF) input to character writing (Hanzi) (ideographic character)', wherein the dictionary and Hanzi database stated above necessarily include entries and indices);

"means for retrieving matching ideographic character sequences from said ideographic database by said matching ideographic indices; and an output device for displaying one or more matched stroke or phonetic entries, and matched ideographic characters" (column 6, lines 27-29, 'the system...converts the Pinyin into Hanzi (ideographic character), and displays (including retrieval) the Hanzi characters on a second section of the graphical interface').

But, Chen does not expressly disclose that the preferred system using ideographic character with "a plurality of stroke indices to corresponding stroke sequences". However, the feature of using a stroke based input method (inherently including stroke indices) is well known in the art as evidenced by Chen himself, who discloses the well-known 'Five-Stroke method' for inputting Chinese character (column 1, lines 38-53), which includes stroke sequence and the related indices. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Chen's preferred embodiment by specifically providing the Five-Stroke method for inputting Chinese characters, as taught by Brash, for the purpose of offering both new and well-known input method/system for inputting Chinese characters.

Even though Chen discloses using stroke-based input method and phonetic input method (column 1, lines 33-61), Chen does not expressly disclose “wherein said user selection of said input means is alternatively associated with any of said plurality of strokes and said plurality of phonetic characters” and the ideographic database “associated with both phonetic input and stroke input”. However, the feature is well known in the art as evidenced by NI who discloses input of symbols (title) that includes any graphic glyph which can be inputted directly from a keyboard or a keypad’ and ‘the symbols include a alphabets, digits...character strokes and tone marks’ (col. 4, lines 21-26), comprising ‘inputting characters into a terminal... having a plurality of keys’, ‘a number of the keys have associated with them a alphabet of different symbols (alternatively associated) which can be accessed and indicated in a display by means of single or multiple key selections or key presses of the keys’ (col. 4, lines 15-32), using ‘Chinese input dictionary which contains a mapping table of Pinyin string (phonetic characters) and matching Chinese characters (corresponding to ideographic database)’ (col. 6, lines 3-9), and that ‘the invention significantly simplifies the input of Pinyin (phonetic input) ... with carefully designed key mapping, this method can also improve other Chinese input methods ...such as Bopomofo or Wubizixin (stroke input)’ (col. 11, lines 18-23), which suggests that Chinese dictionary (ideographic database) is necessary associated with both Pinyin and stroke inputs, as claimed. NI also teaches that ‘most of the existing Chinese input methods were original designed for PC keyboards’ and discloses the previous endeavor for a character input method that requires more basic input symbols than the number of keys on a keypad (col. 1, line 52 to col. 2, lines 40). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Chen by providing input means with a plurality of keys that are associated

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with different symbols (alternatively associated with) and ideogram dictionary (database), such as Chinese input dictionary, with association of both Pinyin input and stroke input, as taught by NI, for the purpose (motivation) of improving character input method (NI: col. 11, lines 21-23).

As per **claim 30** (depending on claim 29), Chen further discloses “said stroke indices are indices of strokes stored by stroke sequences in a stroke input system” (column 1, lines 38-53, ‘a few key strokes—as a combination of theses elementary graphical components’, ‘Five-Stroke method’, which necessarily includes storing stroke sequences in the system).

As per **claim 31** (depending on claim 29), as stated above, Chen discloses “said stroke input system is 5-stroke or 8-stroke system” (column 1, lines 38-53).

As per **claim 32** (depending on claim 29), as stated above, Chen discloses “said phonetic indices are indices of phonetic characters sorted by actual spelling in a phonetic input system” (column 4, line 29, ‘Pinyin and BPMF’ read on the claim).

As per **claim 33** (depending on claim 32), as stated above, Chen discloses “said phonetic input system is a Pinyin system or a Zhuyin system” (column 4, line 29, ‘Pinyin and BPMF’).

As per **claim 34** (depending on claim 29), as stated above, Chen discloses “said phonetic indices are indices of input means in a phonetic input system” (column 4, line 29, ‘Pinyin and BPMF’ read on the claim).

As per **claim 35** (depending on claim 29), Chen further discloses “means for prioritizing stroke or phonetic sequences that match an input sequence and prioritizing ideographic character sequences that match a matching stroke or phonetic sequence according to a linguistic model” (column 12, lines 63-67, ‘the most probable syllable is displayed’ and ‘best matches...selected’ (interpreted as prioritizing); abstract, ‘using... a statistical language model (linguistic model)’).

As per **claim 36** (depending on claim 35), Chen further discloses “said linguistic model comprises at least one of: ... ; frequency of occurrence of ideographic character sequences, stroke sequences or phonetic sequences in formal or conversational written text; frequency of occurrence of ideographic character sequences, stroke sequences or phonetic sequences when following a preceding character or characters; ...” (column 18, lines 45-62, ‘statistics of the relative word occurrence in the phrase (reflecting frequency of occurrence)’, which reads on the claim).

As per **claim 37** (depending on claim 29), as stated above, Chen discloses “said phonetic sequences comprise single syllables” (column 4, lines 29-47, ‘phonetic input (sequences)’, ‘the word string’ and ‘Pinyin’, which necessarily includes single syllables; column 3, line 9, ‘single words (corresponding to single syllable phonetic sequences)’).

As per **claim 38** (depending on claim 29), as stated above, Chen discloses “said phonetic sequences comprise both single and multiple syllables” (column 4, lines 29-47, ‘phonetic input (sequences)’, ‘the word string’ and ‘Pinyin’, which necessarily includes both single and multiple syllables; column 3, lines 6-56, ‘single words (corresponding to single syllables)’, ‘multiple-syllables’).

As per **claim 39** (depending on claim 29), Chen further discloses “said phonetic sequences comprise user generated sequences” (column 6, lines 20-21, ‘user uses keyboard to enter (generate) Pinyin text input (sequences)’).

As per **claim 40** (depending on claim 39), Chen further discloses “in absence of matching phonetic sequences in said database, a sequence of matching phonetic sequences is automatically generated based on single and optionally multiple syllable phonetic sequences” (column 4, lines

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51-61, 'if the word string has no matches in the dictionary, a morphological analysis is done (automatically)...any standard affixes are removed from the word string, the remaining word string (root) (may be single syllable word) is re-analyzed'; column 3, lines 6-56, 'single words (corresponding to single syllable phonetic sequences)', 'multiple-syllable words (phonetic sequences)').

As per **claim 41** (depending on claim 40), Chen further discloses "said sequence of matching phonetic sequences is narrowed down through user interaction" (column 12, lines 63-67, 'the user selects the proper syllable from the menu (narrowed down through user interaction)').

As per **claim 42** (depending on claim 40), as stated above, Chen discloses "a sequence of matching ideographic character sequences is automatically generated based on matching phonetic sequences to ideographic character sequences" (column 6, lines 27-29, 'the system ... converts the Pinyin (phonetic sequences) into Hanzi (ideographic character)').

As per **claim 43** (depending on claim 42), as stated above, Chen discloses "a sequence of matching ideographic character sequences is narrowed down through user interaction" (column 18, lines 55-60, 'the result on the Hanzi 1024 portion (ideographic character sequences)...the remaining candidates are presented to the user ...for selection (narrowed down through user interaction)', '1025 is subject to manual correction by the user').

As per **claim 44** (depending on claim 35), Chen in view of NI further discloses "changing the associated priority of the matching phonetic sequence and the sequence of ideographic characters once an ideographic character sequence is selected", (Ni: col. 3, lines 67, to col. 4, line 5, during input of text, a user is presented with a list of the Latin symbols in an

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order determined (changed) by the probability (associated priority) of being the next symbol rather than being in default, for example alphabetical order', which suggests selection from the list may also changes the associated priority (order)').

As per **claim 45** (depending on claim 29), Chen further discloses "the user can specify a particular tone for the phonetic syllable" (column 4, lines 33-4, 'permit the user to annotate (specify) each entered phonetic test syllable with a diacritic that indicates the tone of the syllable').

As per **claim 47** (depending on claim 29), Chen further discloses "the user can specify an explicit ideographic character separator" (column 10, line 60 to column 11, line 10, 'the user enters a syllable through the keyboard...delimited by special delimiters, i.e. a space').

As per **claim 48** (depending on claim 29), Chen in view of NI further discloses "the user is returned a sequence of phonetic sequences of exact matches and predictions that partially match" (Chen: column 6, lines 24, 'displays (returns) the Pinyin characters 1023[1022]'; Ni: Fig. 5, blacks 25 (shows partially match) and 26; col. 3, lines 49, 'predicts the next Chinese character according to the context and a Chinese word database').

As per **claim 49** (depending on claim 48), Chen further discloses "the sequence is ordered according to the frequency of use based on a linguistic model" (column 18, lines 45-62, 'statistics of the relative word occurrence in the phrase (interpreted as frequency of use)', 'the most probable (ordered) word of the remaining notional word candidates', 'statistical model').

As per **claim 50** (depending on claim 49), the rejection is based on the same reason as described for claim 36, because the claim recites the same or similar limitation(s) as claim 36.

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As per **claim 51** (depending on claim 29), the rejection is based on the same reason as described for claim 43, because the claim recites the same or similar limitation(s) as claim 43.

As per **claim 52** (depending on claim 51), the rejection is based on the same reason as described for claim 49, because the claim recites the same or similar limitation(s) as claim 49.

As per **claim 53** (depending on claim 52), the rejection is based on the same reason as described for claim 36, because the claim recites the same or similar limitation(s) as claim 36.

As per **claims 1-3, 28 and 5-23**, they recite a method. The rejection is based on the same reason described for claims 29-44, and 47-53 respectively, because the claims recite the same or similar limitation(s) as claims 29-44, and 47-53 respectively.

As per **claim 4** (depending to claim 1), the rejection is based on the same reason described for claim 1, because the claim recites the same or similar limitation(s) as claim 1.

As per **claim 24** (depending on claim 1), the rejection is based on the same reason as described for claim 48, because the rejection for claim 48 covers the same or similar limitation(s) of this claim.

As per **claim 25** (depending on claim 24), the rejection is based on the same reason as described for claim 48, because the rejection for claim 48 covers the same or similar limitation(s) of this claim, wherein the input is a string of strokes used in stroke-based input method.

As per **claims 56-78**, they recite a computer readable medium. The rejection is based on the same reason described for claims 29-44 and 47-53 respectively, because the claims recite the same or similar limitation(s) as claims 29-44 and 47-53 respectively.

As per **claim 79** (depending on claim 56), the rejection is based on the same reason as described for claim 24, because the claim recites the same or similar limitation(s) as claim 24.

As per **claim 80** (depending on claim 79), the rejection is based on the same reason as described for claim 25, because the claim recites the same or similar limitation(s) as claim 25.

6. Claims 26-27, 46, 54-55 and 81-82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of NI as applied to claims 1, 29 and 56, and further in view of ZHANG et al. (5,197,810).

As per **claim 46** (depending on claim 29), Chen does not expressly disclose “one of said plurality of inputs is associated with a **special wildcard** input that is associated with any or all tones”. However, the feature of using a wildcard for inputting and displaying symbols/texts is well known in the art as evidenced by ZHANG who discloses method and system for inputting simplified forma and/or original complex form of Chinese character (title), comprising ‘Fuzzy auxiliary inputting method’ in which some special keys ‘can be used in substitution as a wild card’ or ‘can be used as the fuzzy key (wildcard key)’(col. 13, line 59 to col. 13, line 8).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Chen by providing an input method with wild card used for substitution of input symbols or text, taught by ZHANG, for the purpose (motivation) of using the wild card in substitution of an input (ZHANG: col. 13, lines 62-63), such as input of Pinyin characters and/or strokes representing Chinese character components, as disclosed by Chen, NI and ZHANG in the background sections.

As per **claim 54** (depending on claim 29), the rejection is based on the same reason as described for claim 46, because the claim recites the same or similar limitation(s) as claim 46.

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As per **claim 55** (depending on claim 29), the rejection is based on the same reason as described for claim 46, because the claim recites the same or similar limitation(s) as claim 46.

As per **claims 26-27** (depending on claim 1), the rejection is based on the same reason described for claims 54-55 respectively, because the claims recite the same or similar limitation(s) as claims 54-55 respectively.

As per **claims 81-82** (depending on claim 56), the rejection is based on the same reason described for claims 54-55 respectively, because the claims recite the same or similar limitation(s) as claims 54-55 respectively.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a). A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Qi Han whose telephone numbers is (571) 272-7604. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil, can be reached on (571) 272-7602.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Inquiries regarding the status of submissions relating to an application or questions on the Private PAIR system should be directed to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028 between the hours of 6 a.m. and midnight Monday through Friday EST, or by e-mail at: ebc@uspto.gov. For general information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

QH/qh
January 3, 2006


RICHEMOND DORVIL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER